

# SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

5/19/04

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

#### SB 221 (Garcia)

Senate Bill 221 would state that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) cannot prohibit a person who is licensed to carry a concealed weapon or handgun, or who is exempt from licensure, to transport a pistol or carry a loaded pistol, concealed or not, in any area frequented by wild animals. The person would not be required to have a hunting license in their possession.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 221 [RC 303: 32 yes, 4 no]. IE was given.

SB 625 (Cassis) SB 626 (Van Woerkom) SB 627 (Allen) SB 661 (Allen) SB 662 (Allen)

Senate Bills 625-28 and Senate Bills 661-62 amend scholarship and financial aid programs in Michigan to allow students studying theology or divinity to also receive the state scholarship/financial aid funding. Currently, theology and divinity students are not eligible for the aid. These bills make changes to all the following programs: part-time independent student grants; state competitive scholarships; merit award; educational opportunity grant program; tuition grants; tuition differential grants; and payments to approved independent nonprofit institutions of higher education.

As amended by the House, the bills now prohibit the use of public scholarships and grants if a student is "enrolled in an institution whose primary purpose is to prepare students for ordination or appointment as a member of the clergy of a church, denomination, or religious association, order, or sect."

- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 625 [RC 304: 37 yes, 0 no]. IE was given.
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 626 [RC 305: 37 yes, 0 no]. IE was given.
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 627 [RC 306: 37 yes, 0 no].
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 661 [RC 307: 36 yes, 0 no].
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 662 [RC 308: 37 yes, 0 no].

## FINAL PASSAGE

HB 5105 (Van Regenmorter)

HB 5105 would revise provisions pertaining to armed robbery, carjacking, and unarmed robbery. The crime of armed robbery would be expanded to include a person who, in the course of engaging in the proscribed conduct, represented orally or otherwise that he or she was in possession of a dangerous weapon. Robbery would now include if force or violence is used to retain possession of the stolen property or to escape apprehension even if force was not used initially to take the property.

• HB 5105 passed with IE [RC 309: 37 yes, 0 no].

## THIRD READING

### **SB 1025 (Bishop)**

SB 1025 would create a "children's protection registry," allowing for the registration (on a statewide database) of an email address, instant messaging address, cell phone number, etc. that a child may have access to. If these "contact points" receive electronic communications (i.e., spam) involving products or services that are illegal for a minor to purchase, the perpetrator of such contact would be subject to penalties/confiscation of equipment.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1025 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.

#### HB 5134 (Gaffney)

HB 5134 would require that the use of lasers for dermatological use be done only under a physician's supervision. The bill would help ensure patient safety by making sure that a trained medical professional was on the premises to respond to any complications.

Support: MI Academy of Physician Assistants, MSMS, MI Dermatological Society.

- JACOBS 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This would allow laser treatment by a licensed nurse practitioner and a physician's assistant.
- HB 5134 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.